

California Water Conditions Synopsis for September 2003

Hydrologic conditions in water year 2002-03 finished near average. Below is a comparison of statewide and regional hydrologic conditions since 1998. Values are in percent of average unless noted.

Water Year	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<u>Statewide</u>	(estim)					
Precipitation	110%	80%	75%	100%	95%	170%
April 1 Snowpack	65%	95%	60%	100%	110%	160%
River Runoff	100%	75%	50%	95%	110%	175%
Reservoir Storage, Sept 30 (million acre-feet)	103% 23 maf	87% 19.4 maf	87% 19.4 maf	111% 24.2 maf	118% 25.6 maf	136% 29.6 maf
<u>Regional</u>						
Northern Sierra Precipitation (8 Station Index, inches)	120% 60 in	93% 46.3 in	66% 33.0 in	113% 56.7 in	110% 54.8 in	165% 82.4 in
Sacramento River Runoff (million acre-feet)	101% 19.2 maf	81% 14.6 maf	54% 9.8 maf	105% 18.9 maf	117% 21.2 maf	174% 31.4 maf
San Joaquin River Runoff (million acre-feet)	81% 4.9 maf	72% 4.1 maf	57% 3.2 maf	103% 7.0 maf	104% 5.9 maf	183% 10.4 maf

Precipitation during September was below normal across California. The remnants of Hurricane Marty left only light showers in southeast California; however, heavy rain fell in southern Arizona during the fourth week of the month. Overall, a very wet fall, dry winter, and wet spring resulted in near average conditions for the water year in California.

Temperatures during September were above normal inland and cooler than normal along the coast. A strong upper level ridge of high pressure and offshore flow brought 39 high temperature records to California on September 21 – 24. Some of the record highs during this period include 110 at Borrego Desert State Park, 110 at Thermal, 108 at Red Bluff, 107 at Redding, 105 at Ontario, 103 at Sacramento, 102 at Stockton, 99 at Richmond, 96 at Mount Wilson, 96 at Oakland, and 82 at Eureka. Although not a record, Death Valley reached 114 on September 22. Clouds from Hurricane Marty and a strong marine intrusion from the Pacific Ocean broke the heat wave on September 24 and 25. Wind gusts from the southwest as high as 43 miles per hour were recorded at Travis AFB on September 24.

Runoff during September receded to the lowest level since last October, about 85 percent of average statewide.

Reservoir storage in the State's largest 152 reservoirs decreased to about 60 percent of capacity on September 30, about 10 percent more than last year.